

Kabul reassures Cordovez of flexibility

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah met U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez Sunday and reassured him that his government would be flexible in search of an Afghan peace settlement, official Kabul Radio reported. Cordovez flew to the Afghan capital for further talks with the Soviet-backed government after Pakistani officials rejected the format of six-year-old peace talks. Cordovez, seeking an end to the nine-year-old guerrilla war in Afghanistan, returned to Islamabad later Sunday and will brief Pakistani officials Monday, a U.N. spokesman said. The spokesman told Reuters earlier that Cordovez would stay in Kabul for two or three days and had no immediate explanation why the envoy returned so soon. The trip was Cordovez's third to Kabul since arriving in the region on Jan. 20 for what has become his longest shuttle mission since he began conducting the indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva in 1982.

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Libyan health minister arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — The health minister of Libya is scheduled to arrive here Monday on an official visit during which he will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart on Jordan's experience in the field of health and on cooperation in the field of health services.

Soviets report effort for peace parley

CAIRO (AP) — The Soviet Union's ambassador to Cairo said Sunday that his country was presently holding contacts with United Nations Security Council members on paving the way for an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. Gennady Zhuravlev spoke to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boris Gromyko. "My country is presently holding contacts with Security Council members to prepare for an international peace conference which is the only way to resolve the problem," Zhuravlev said. "The unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories shows the need to move forward quickly and solve the problem," Zhuravlev said. "I discussed with Minister Gromyko the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the necessity of stopping the oppressive (Israeli) actions."

India calls for Mideast conference

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has called for efforts by the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international forums to seek a settlement to the Palestinian problem, the United News of India (UNI) reported. Gandhi also renewed his support for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), UNI said. Gandhi made the remarks Saturday at a meeting with Khaled Al Sheikh, the PLO's ambassador to India.

Turkey sends aid to W. Bank, Gaza

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey Sunday sent 98 tonnes of food aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. Six trailer trucks carrying flour, rice, sugar and powdered milk headed for the southern port of Mersin, from where the food would be shipped to Haifa next Wednesday, the agency said. It said the shipment was arranged by Turkey's Red Crescent Organisation and the distribution would be handled by the Palestinian refugees' aid organisation.

Tate knocks out Sibson

STAFFORD (AP) — Frank Tate of the United States delivered a crashing right hand to the head to knock out British challenger Tony Sibson Sunday and retain his International Boxing Federation middleweight title in a convincing style. The 23-year-old former Olympic junior middleweight title stretched his unbeaten record to 22-0-0 in spectacular style to end the fight in the tenth of a scheduled 12 rounds. The stylish Tate was rarefied by the fight by the 29-year-old Briton, who was trying to win a world title at the third attempt.

INSIDE

- PLO threatens use of force to free kidnapped aid workers, page 2
- Arab Thought Forum hears ideas on how to help Lebanon, page 3
- Seeing beyond the uprising, page 4
- The Western media's double standard, page 5
- Yugoslavia, Italy advance in Davis Cup, page 6
- U.S. central bank may cut interest rates, page 7
- Nunn proposes cutback in European conventional forces, page 8

At least five more Arabs fall martyr to Israeli troops; over 50 wounded in gunfire or beatings

Strike, violent protests rage in W. Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three more Palestinians were shot dead and at least 25 were wounded by Israeli gunfire Sunday as a wave of clashes between Arab protesters and Israeli troops swept the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Two other Palestinians died earlier of gunshot wounds or beating injuries received last week, bringing the unofficial death toll to 49 in the Palestinian uprising that erupted on Dec. 9. The Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, and Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron, in gloomy reports to the cabinet, for the first time gave no indication that an end to the uprising was in sight, government sources said. A call for a general strike in leaders signed by the clandestine "Unified Leadership of the Uprising" was widely observed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In one of the bloodiest incidents of the last two months, three Palestinians were killed when troops opened fire on protesters in the West Bank village of Beit Ummar, an army spokesman said.

Sources said soldiers shot the three dead stone-throwing protesters, urged on by mosque loudspeakers, tried to march on the main Jerusalem-Hebron road. Residents said soldiers opened fire without warning on a crowd in the village centre, killing Imad Khader Sabarnah, 22, Mohammad Ibrahim Shweib, 23, and Tayseer Abdallah Jarad, 18. The protests followed an overnight attack by Jewish settlers who vandalised Arab-owned cars in Hebron, 30 kilometres south of Jerusalem.

Peres aide does not rule out peace force in W. Bank, Gaza

LONDON (AP) — A senior Israeli official said Sunday he didn't rule out a multinational peacekeeping force or an Arab-Israeli force in the occupied territories as part of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Yossi Beilin, political director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, said Israel wants to remain open to any suggestions to reach a political settlement in the Middle East.

In an interview on Channel 4 television's "The World This Week," he said Israel welcomes the new U.S. peace initiative in the region and he believes it has a chance to succeed. "I believe that in the coming months we will see real progress in our part of the world," he said. Beilin said the Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past two months required a political solution, not military action. Asked whether it would help politically if Israel brought in an international peacekeeping force, rather than having Israeli soldiers fighting the Palestinians, he replied: "I don't think so. I don't think they will help much. But we will be open to any suggestion which will be suggested to us in the future in this procedure."

Would Israel consider having the Arabs keeping peace in the region? "I wouldn't like to exclude any idea, maybe a joint... force, a new one, a multinational one," Beilin said. "There are so many ideas and the imagination is so rich that if you really want peace and you see the importance of peace in our part of the world, you can find it. I'm not pessimistic about it," he said.

Beilin said the new American idea was to focus first on substantive issues, not on procedures such as peace conferences where there appeared to be something of a deadlock.

"The new American idea is to perhaps have a shuttle diplomacy (Continued on page 5)

listed the names, ages and hometowns of 25 Palestinians it said were wounded Sunday by Israeli gunfire throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Protests in Jerusalem Clashes swept through numerous refugee camps, villages and towns in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem Sunday. Violence also moved to within a stone's throw of west Jerusalem (Continued on page 5)



Palestinian demonstrators in the West Bank

Murphy continues talks in Syria; no progress reported

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met Syrian leaders again Sunday to discuss Washington's new Middle East peace proposals but diplomats said he had so far failed to win approval of the initiative. The Syrian media maintained their broadside against his mission, which has also been condemned by Palestinian groups.

Murphy arrived in Damascus Friday to start a Middle East tour, which will also include Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt. He met Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Sunday to present Washington's proposals and to review the Lebanon situation. But diplomats said Murphy, who had more than five hours of talks with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Saturday, had not bridged the wide gap between the Syrian and American viewpoints.

His tour was prompted by two months of violent anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in which at least 48 Palestinians have been killed.

For the third consecutive day, the Syrian media sharply criticised the tour by Murphy, an assistant secretary of state. "The American ideas... are in effect nothing other than the Camp David deal..." said the official Syria Times newspaper. George Habash, leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the United States wanted to crush the Palestinian uprising through political means after Israel had failed to stop it through force.

Murphy's talks, attended by U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton, were surrounded by secrecy. He was expected later to deliver to President Hafez Al Assad a letter from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He refused to divulge its contents. After meeting Sharaa Saturday, Murphy refused to disclose details of his talks with Syrian officials.

King arrives in Bonn to address EC foreign ministers' meeting

BONN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in West Germany Sunday to discuss proposals for an international peace conference on the Middle East with the European Community's (EC) foreign ministers.

The King met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher shortly after his arrival for talks that centered on Middle Eastern issues, including the continuing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, government officials said.

The King is accompanied on the visit to Bonn by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

During his three-day visit, the King is slated to meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, President Richard von Weizsaecker and several business and economic leaders. The King is to meet Monday with the 12 EC foreign ministers for a scheduled two-hour session

that will centre on proposals for a Middle East peace conference, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The EC has already endorsed the Arab call for the conference, and West Germany, currently holding the rotating six-month community presidency, reaffirmed the stand Saturday.

On the eve of the Bonn meeting, which follows talks with Italian and French leaders, the King urged the community to exert efforts to change the U.S. position towards the international conference.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said Sunday that the EC foreign ministers, who open a regular meeting here Monday to prepare for an EC summit, were unable to agree on a new declaration on the Middle East after the Netherlands opposed it.

The Netherlands had objected to including criticism of Israel's arbitrary measures against Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the sources said. Genscher, who recently visited

Israel and several Arab states, said Saturday the EC had to use its influence to get peace talks under way.

"Conditions must be created for direct talks between all involved parties. An international peace conference under the umbrella of the United Nations could be the right forum," Genscher said in a radio interview.

During the one-day meeting in Bonn devoted to community foreign policy, King Hussein will also brief the EC foreign ministers on the last Arab League summit.

EC policy on South Africa and Central American peace efforts are also on the agenda of the foreign ministers' meeting.

The King's appearance will mark the first time a non-community leader has taken part in an EC conference, officials said.

Genscher said the King's invitation underscored his key role in the Middle East. Protests in the West Bank and Gaza have added urgency to getting peace talks under way, he added.

Bulgarian leader reaffirms support for Jordan's peace efforts

Regent confers with Tanchev

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received a message from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov containing an official invitation to His Majesty King Hussein to visit Bulgaria.

The message was delivered to the Regent during an audience at the Royal Court with visiting Bulgarian Vice-President Peter Tanchev.

After reviewing bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest with Tanchev, Prince Hassan expressed appreciation of Bulgaria for its support for Arab causes.

Tanchev reaffirmed Bulgaria's support for Jordan's proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East under the aegis of the United Nations and attended by all parties to the conflict, and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Bulgaria, will not restore diplomatic relations with Israel "as long as the reasons for severing relations are there and as long as Israel occupies Arab territories

and denies the Palestinian people their right to self-determination," Tanchev said.

Lawzi meets Tanchev

Earlier Sunday, Tanchev held talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and reiterated Bulgaria's support for Jordan's efforts to convene an

international conference on the Middle East. The proposed conference is the only viable means for peace in the region, he said.

The Bulgarian leader said the recent superpower agreement to eliminate part of their nuclear arsenal could pave way for U.S.-

(Continued on page 5)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives Bulgarian Vice-President Peter Tanchev (Petra photo)

Iraqi jets hit Kharg, Iranians attack U.S.-owned tanker

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes defied Iranian air defenses Sunday to carry out their first raid in more than three months against their foe's main oil terminal in the Gulf, Baghdad and Gulf-based shipping sources said.

Iranian gunboats, meanwhile, attacked a U.S.-owned tanker flying the Liberian flag near the Strait of Hormuz, but may have broken off the assault prematurely when a foreign warship answered the tanker's distress call.

An Iraqi high command statement said: "Our aircraft launched a destructive attack on the loading jetties at Kharg at 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) to prevent the enemy using the island to export its oil and use the revenues to finance aggression against our people."

It added that all planes returned safely from the raid. Iraq has reported more than 150 air attacks on Kharg since August 1985.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said troops of the 2nd army corps beat off an Iranian attack in the central sector of the warfront. Most of the enemy brigade was destroyed during the battle early Sunday morning, he said.

A Gulf shipping source said before Iraq announced the raid that Kharg Island had been attacked at 0840 GMT and that a tanker was on fire.

He had no further details. Iran's gunboats raked the American-owned tanker Diane in the southern Gulf with machinegun fire Sunday, three hours after one of its frigates fired warning shots across another ship, shipping sources said. It was Tehran's fourth Gulf attack in five days, raising tension

among shippers following a lull in raids in January. The shots hit the engine room and crew quarters of the 64,140-tonne Diane at 2:20 a.m. (2220 GMT Saturday) off the United Arab Emirates port of Mina Saqr, the sources said.

The Diane, owned by North American Ship Agencies in New York but flying the Liberian flag, caught fire in the attack.

Sources quoted by the AP said radio monitors overheard conversation between the Diane and an unidentified foreign warship after the tanker issued a Mayday distress call.

They said it was not clear how close the warship was, but the radio exchange might have induced the Iranians to break off the attack sooner than usual.

The United States, Britain, France, Italy and the Soviet Union have armed vessels in the Gulf, generally concerned with escorting vessels flying their own respective flags, but permitted also to offer aid to ships in trouble.

About three hours earlier an Iranian frigate fired warning shots across a ship apparently reluctant to be stopped for questioning.

The sources could not identify the intercepted ship but said the Iranian warship allowed it to proceed.

Commercial vessels that are owned by Americans or carrying American cargo do not fly the U.S. flag are known to have been pressing the Pentagon to expand the U.S. military protection umbrella to their vessels.

The issue was played up at the time of the visit last month by U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci to the Gulf.

Jordan, Australia to sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Australia will conclude an agreement on trade and economic relations during a visit to Jordan by Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden next week.

Hayden, who will be here in the course of a tour of Arab countries, will sign the agreement with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, according to an official announcement Sunday.

The announcement said that Hayden and Tabbaa will chair meetings of the Joint Jordanian Australian Economic Committee which will be held here Feb. 14.

The agreement, the announcement said, will aim at promoting trade, participation of both countries in joint ventures and industrial fairs and an exchange of expertise in trade-related affairs. The agreement will be valid for three years.

Arafat aide in Lebanon threatens to use force to free U.N. officials

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A Palestinian official loyal to Yasser Arafat threatened Sunday to use force to free two Scandinavian United Nations relief workers held by Palestinian gunmen in this southern Lebanese town.

Anwar Madi of the mainstream Fatah group, led by Arafat, told Reuters in Sidon that Palestinian commandos of several factions had launched a manhunt for the two in Ain Al Hilweh Refugee Camp and surrounding hills.

He expected the men to be released in 48 hours.

Masked Palestinians snatched 44-year-old Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57, outside Sidon Friday.

The two work in nearby Tyre for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which provides aid to 280,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and nearly two million more elsewhere in the Middle East.

Madi said Fatah officials were making contacts to release the two "and if dialogue does not work we will use other ways."

Asked if this meant force would be used he said: "Yes."

UNRWA sources told Reuters the agency had fired six Palestinian employees in Tyre the day before the kidnapping, after Stening and Joergensen discovered they were stealing UNRWA supplies.

The sources said they suspected a link between the abduc-

tions and the six, who were loyal to Arafat and had demanded that they be rehired or paid compensation.

Palestinian officials loyal to Arafat in Sidon have described the kidnappers as "irregular elements" and UNRWA itself has denied it fired any of its Palestinian employees.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday denounced the kidnapping of the two Scandinavians and said it was seeking their release.

"I am 100 per cent sure there is no role of the PLO or Fatah in this kidnapping," PLO spokesman Ahmad Abderrahman told Reuters.

"Fatah and the PLO will do their best to secure the release of these two officials immediately," he added.

"This act is against the Palestinian people and the kidnappers want to stop the role of UNRWA helping our people in the refugee camps," Abderrahman said.

UNRWA officials meet Syrians

Two UNRWA officials working for the release of Stening and

Joergensen, Irishman John Carolan and Milan Trojanovic, a Yugoslav, arrived in Sidon Sunday and went to meet local Syrian observers at nearby Hlaithiyeh town.

The kidnapping victims were among 14 international staff with UNRWA in Lebanon. More than 2,000 Palestinians also work for the organisation.

Madi, one of several Palestinian officials of various factions who held talks with local UNRWA officials Sunday, said the two were held in a deserted area south east of Ain Al Hilweh in no-mans-land between Palestinian fighters and the Shi'ite Amal militia.

Arafat enjoys a wide following at Ain Al Hilweh, home to 80,000 refugees, 40 kilometres from Beirut.

"Arafat is in constant contact from Tunis. He has not slept since the kidnapping and issued very strict orders to us to work round the clock to free the two," Madi added.

Diplomats said Arafat was probably embarrassed by the kidnapping of two aid workers at a time when he was seeking enhanced support for the Palestinian cause and for protesters in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

UNRWA said Saturday the kidnappers were Palestinians "with connections" to Arafat and were holding the two in Sidon.

UNRWA's information officer in Beirut, Niall Kiely, told Reuters the agency had no new information on the release prospects of the two. "We are still waiting for news," he said.

UNRWA's director in Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist, appealed Saturday for the release of the two and said the kidnapping may threaten continued U.N. aid to Lebanese and Palestinians.

The abductions, the first of Scandinavians in Lebanon, brought to 27 the number of foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in the war-torn country.

Sweden's consul in West Berlin, Sengner Steffensberg, and Norway's charge d'affaires in Damascus, Peter Raeder, arrived in Lebanon Saturday to help efforts to win freedom for the two.

Stefferberg said after meeting Mustafa Saad, leader of the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA) which controls Sidon, he hoped the case would be solved peacefully.

"We would like to see a peaceful solution with no bloodshed," PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat himself is determined to see a speedy solution," he told reporters.

He said he would keep a vigil at UNRWA's headquarters in Muslim West Beirut until a "happy ending is reached."

Saad condemned the kidnapping of the two Scandinavians and said he was making contacts to secure their release.

3 million Sudanese need food

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Sunday more than three million of its 23 million people would need relief food this year.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said the figure included 1.75 million people in the Western provinces of Kordofan and Darfur who alone will need 112,000 tonnes of relief food.

Quoting government relief chief Al Tayeb Al Hajj Al Taher, SUNA said another 324,000 people in south Sudan's Equatoria, Upper Nile and Bahr Al Ghazal provinces needed relief.

Taher said 200,000 needed help in central Sudan, 150,000 in the north while 600,000 in Khartoum would need handouts.

He put the Sudan's 1988 total needs for relief grain at 218,000 tonnes.

However Taher made no mention of tens of thousands of people living in eastern Sudan who lost their cattle herds, their sole means of livelihood, in the great 1984-85 drought.

Relief workers say most of the area's inhabitants are still dependent on relief food.

Sudan has reported that the 1987-88 crop of sorghum and millet, the country's main food staples, was less than half the previous season's due to drought.

A four-year-old bush war in the south between government troops and secessionist guerrillas of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) has also disrupted agriculture in the area.

Khartoum newspapers Sunday quoted Information Minister Al Touni Mohammad Al Touni as saying the government had decided to stop all contacts with the SPLA.

"No negotiations with the rebels while parts of the country are occupied," he was quoted as saying.

The government held secret talks with the SPLA in December and representatives of a semi-official body are talking to the SPLA in Addis Ababa to try and arrange safe conduct for food convoys.

A proposed airlift of 400 tonnes of food from Khartoum to Juba, capital of Equatoria, was scheduled to begin last Tuesday but still had not started Sunday.

A threat by the SPLA to shoot down any aircraft over the south and a possibility that the government had given priority to ferrying arms and troops to Juba have delayed the food airlift.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Tuesday that 36 river barges were ready to sail up the White Nile from the central town of Kosti to Malakal with relief food.

But Mathew Ubor, president of the Southern Council, told relief workers Thursday that only six of the barges carried relief food while the rest were loaded with commercial food.

SUNA Friday quoted an unidentified participant in Thursday's meeting as saying merchants whose goods enjoyed military protection were making hefty profits in the south while thousands there were starving.

Doubts raised whether alleged bribe was factor in Iraqi pipeline deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Momentum was running down on a project to build a \$1 billion pipeline from Iraq to Jordan in May 1985 when E. Robert Wallach asked his friend, Attorney General Edwin Meese III, to get the ball rolling again.

Meese called Robert McFarlane, then President Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser. McFarlane invited Wallach and a Swiss businessman involved in the deal, Bruce Rappaport, to his office and assigned an aide to try to put the deal back together.

That meeting in June, others said that followed, and a long memo from Wallach to Meese are now under criminal investigation by an independent counsel.

The probe is the latest in a series of investigations involving members of the Reagan administration. More than 100 people who have served in the administration, including some of the president's closest advisers and friends, have been investigated for wrongdoing during Reagan's seven years in office.

After the session in McFarlane's White House office, Rappaport and another attorney representing him, Julius Kaplan, met separately with officials of the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC), an agency that would have insured the project. They told OPIC that McFarlane said the pipeline was important for national security.

The president of OPIC, Craig Nalen, requested assurances, and in a meeting with McFarlane on June 27, 1985, "was told that the National Security Council was interested in this project and would appreciate anything OPIC could do," said OPIC General Counsel Eric Garfinkel.

Meese, who has denied any wrongdoing in the case, acknowledged referring the case to McFarlane.

The rest of this account was pieced together from interviews with government, industry and private individuals. Some of them spoke on condition of anonymity because of potential criminal charges arising from the case.

Although influence peddling like that apparent in this case is not necessarily barred by law, independent counsel James McGray is considering the possibility of criminal implications of a letter from Wallach to Meese reportedly suggesting that senior Israeli officials be compensated

in return for guarantees that Israel would not attack the pipeline. Meese has said the letter was written in mid-1985, but has not specified the date.

The pipeline was never built, for various economic and political reasons, and the chronology offered by knowledgeable sources cast strong doubt on whether a bribe, if offered, was a factor.

Reasons for pipeline

The idea for the pipeline was born in the Iran-Iraq war. Shortly after the conflict began in September 1980, Iran shut off Iraqi access to the Gulf through which Iraq shipped most of its 3.2 million barrels a day in oil exports.

Syria, allied with Iraq, shut off a pipeline that carried Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean Sea.

Iraq, desperate for export earnings to finance the conflict, was shipping 500,000 barrels a day through a pipeline across Turkey, sending about 200,000 barrels a day across Jordan to the Red Sea Port of Aqaba and negotiating with Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia for permanent pipelines.

A Jordanian diplomat in Washington, Akram Barakat, said that both his nation and Iraq were suspicious of Israel, particularly after Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor on June 7, 1981, and invaded Lebanon on June 6, 1982.

In 1983, Jordanian diplomats asked U.S. officials to obtain Israel's guarantees that Israel would not attack the pipeline, according to a current and a former American official with direct knowledge of the dealings.

In the spring of 1984, when Shimon Peres of the Labour Party was prime minister of Israel, U.S. officials obtained the requested assurances.

One former U.S. government official said that in 1984 the Israelis "didn't need any great persuasion," because they were not against the pipeline.

In 1984, Jordan asked the giant Bechtel Group Inc. to prepare an engineering study of the proposed pipeline. The following year, Bechtel enlisted Rappaport to cement the Israeli commitment, said company spokesman Al Douner in San Francisco.

"We contacted Mr. Rappaport because of his ties with

Israel. The suggestion came out of Japan, from some Japanese business interests," said Douner. "Our first contact with Mr. Rappaport came in early 1985."

Rappaport said in an interview with Israeli Radio last weekend that he had known Peres for 45 years, and flew to Israel and met with Peres in 1984-85. But he denied offering a bribe.

"I want to tell you sincerely and under oath that there never was a conversation about paying money to a minister, a party or the government," Rappaport said.

Rappaport retained Wallach, apparently because of Wallach's long ties with Meese.

By 1985, Israeli officials were ready to offer written guarantees they would not attack the pipeline, said Garfinkel, the OPIC lawyer.

Privately, Israeli officials were saying that if Israel bombed the pipeline, they would not repay a \$400-million U.S. loan needed to start the project.

Late in the summer of 1985, "the salvage package began to deteriorate," said Garfinkel. In the early fall, Rappaport's attorney "brought the proposal that U.S. government aid funds be given to Israel and put in escrow."

OPIC officials questioned the legality of that proposal, and prepared a memorandum seeking clarification from the Justice Department, headed by Meese, said Garfinkel.

"Wallach urged us to send it to Meese, which was not out of the ordinary," said Garfinkel. "But we received no answer."

At about the same time, Wallach wrote the long memorandum to Meese that the attorney general said in a statement last Monday contained a 10-word reference that has "now mushroomed into importance."

"The exact phrasing is unknown, because the memo is classified."

Meanwhile, Democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon has called for Attorney General Edwin Meese III to resign, saying his leadership of the Justice Department diminishes respect for the law.

"The person who administers the Department of Justice should be a person of stature and eminence to whom all Americans can look with pride," Simon said Saturday.

UNRWA workers defy dangers in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — International staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), defying the risk of death and kidnapping, still help thousands of Palestinian refugees across the war-torn Lebanon.

The dangers they face were highlighted when four masked Palestinian gunmen snatched 44-year-old Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57, near the southern town of Sidon Friday.

"UNRWA feels its job is to be near the Palestinian refugees it is supposed to help," said Niall Kiely, UNRWA's information officer.

He said Palestinians at refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon lived in difficult conditions "and it is in these areas that the international staff feel they have to be to back up the local staff."

UNRWA's 1987 annual report included a special tribute from Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli to the "devotion of the agency staff serving in Lebanon who, often at great personal risk to themselves, have maintained the flow of services to the refugees."

The agency's director in Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist, said Friday's kidnapping might force

it to withdraw "non-essential foreign staff from Lebanon as a matter of emergency."

The victims, who had worked in the southern town of Tyre for nearly a year, were among 14 foreigners with UNRWA in Lebanon. They include Scandinavians, Australians, Japanese, Irish and Yugoslavs.

UNRWA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were among the few international bodies to keep foreign staff in west Beirut and the south after 1985 when the killing of two Britons and an American led to an exodus of Western embassies and foreigners.

The agency transferred its international staff to the relative safety of Christian east Beirut on Jan. 29 last year for just 23 days before moving back to the Muslim western sector.

Kiely said it kept an office in east Beirut "but only as an emergency base."

UNRWA, set up in 1949 to aid Palestinian refugees, provides relief for two million people throughout the Middle East, including 280,000 in Lebanon.

It employs more than 2,000 Palestinians at its Lebanon offices and at 85 schools and 17 clinics and health centres in more than a dozen refugee set-

tlements.

Kiely said the agency spent 70 per cent of its budget on education, 20 per cent on health services and 10 per cent on welfare.

"The fact that the kidnappers were Palestinians was a big shock to us and only harmed our prestige," said one UNRWA's Palestinian worker in Beirut.

It was the first serious blow to UNRWA's operations in Lebanon since British journalist Alec Collett, on a special assignment for the agency, was kidnapped in March 1985. His kidnappers said they killed him but his body has not been found.

UNRWA's deputy director, Aidan Walsh, was seized and held for 17 hours in mainly Muslim west Beirut in May 1985. Other foreign staff left in 1986 after receiving kidnapping threats.

The UNRWA report said seven staff members, all Palestinians, were killed and scores wounded in the year to last June. Since 1982, 29 staff had been killed and hundreds had been injured or had disappeared.

"The safety of the staff within west Beirut, Sidon and Tyre, as well as roads to the other areas in Lebanon where the agency operates, was a constant source of concern," said the report.

Papandreou: Davos talks favourable for Cyprus

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou said his tension-easing meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal last weekend would be favourable for divided Cyprus.

Papandreou made the comment in a statement issued late Saturday after a two-hour visit to Athens by Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou.

The Greek and Turkish leaders agreed at talks in Davos, Switzerland, to improve ties between their countries, which nearly went to war last year.

"The climate that prevailed during the Davos meeting will certainly have favourable effects on the Cyprus problem," Papandreou said without elaborating.

He said Greece's line on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Northern Cyprus and a settlement of international aspects of the Cyprus situation remained unchanged.

Papandreou said he would raise the issue of people missing in Cyprus with Ozal at a NATO meeting in Brussels in March.

More than 1,600 people went missing after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 18:30 Koran 18:55 Programme review 19:00 Children's programme 19:20 Punky Brouster 19:45 Al-Manabih 19:50 I could do that 19:55 Oliver Twist 19:55 Educational programme 19:55 Arabic series 19:55 Local programme 19:55 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic Series 21:30 Local programme 22:10 Programme on prominent Arab Writers PROGRAMME TWO 19:00 Carnets de l'Adventure (documentary) 19:00 News in French 19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French) 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Are You Being Served? 21:10 Vanity Fair (New classic drama series) 22:00 News in English 22:20 Feature film: The Ted Kennedy Jr. Story RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 73111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Just a Minute 11:00 My Music 11:30 Readings 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session Contd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Special Feature 15:00 News Summary 15:05 Pop Session 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:30 Young Sound 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Sports Roundup 18:30 Music 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show		TODAY'S EVENTS FOLK DANCE ★ Performances of Romanian folk dance daily at 9:00 p.m. at Alfa Gateway Hotel (until Feb. 10). PUPPET THEATRE ★ Puppet Theatre vis-a-vis at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre. FEATURE FILM ★ "Murphy's Romance" at 7:00 p.m. at the Americana Centre. DOCUMENTARY ★ Documentary — Les Carnets de l'Adventure at 6:10 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. EXHIBITION ★ "L'urbanisme Parisien" at 6:00 p.m. (runs through Feb. 18) LECTURES ★ Lectures: "Les Enjeux de L'art contemporain" cycle De Trois Cours Publics. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. 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ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:15 Aqaba (RJ) 09:20 Larnaca (RJ) 09:20 Cairo (RJ) 09:30 Damascus (RJ) 09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 09:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ) 09:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 10:40 Kuwait, Doha (RJ) 16:10 New York (RJ) 16:45 Cairo (RJ) 17:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 18:40 Bangkok (RJ) 23:55 Baghdad (AF) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 09:20 Sana'a (LH) 09:30 Baghdad (LA) 09:35 Cairo (MS) 13:40 Kuwait (KU) 14:25 Sharjah, Doha (GF) 18:00 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ) 18:25 Beirut (ME) 08:30 Baghdad (AF) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:00 Aqaba (RJ) 11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:30 Paris (RJ) 11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 19:35 Kuwait (RJ) 19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 19:55 Baghdad (RJ) 20:00 Jeddah (RJ) 20:15 Cairo (RJ) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA) 06:30 Beirut (MEA) 10:10 Frankfurt (LH) 18:20 Vienna (MS) 18:10 Bangkok (RJ) 15:45 Bahrain (GF)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Dweimessah 707023 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 78933 Civil Defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 865301 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 77125/8 Queen Alia Int. 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Regent receives head of Jordan-Japan society

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred at the Royal Court Sunday with the chairman of the Japanese-Jordanian Friendship Society Masao Funabashi on Jordanian-Japanese relations.

The meeting was attended by the Japanese charge d'affaires in Amman.

Funabashi arrived in Amman Saturday evening on a visit to Jordan during which he was expected to hold talks with senior officials on means of bolstering Jordanian-Japanese relations in all fields.

Funabashi is also due to meet with members of the Jordanian-Japanese Friendship Society to discuss means of stimulating the society's role in promoting bilateral cooperation.

The Japanese guest who is due to leave for Kuwait Monday was also expected to tour archaeological sites and visit development projects in the Kingdom.

Upon his arrival at the airport Funabashi was greeted by the Jordanian-Japanese Friendship Society vice chairman, Zuhair Asfour, and society members.

YMCA moves to support Palestinian uprising

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) has called on its members to take steps in support of Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

A recent YMCA memorandum urged its members to contact their respective governments, Israeli embassies and Jewish groups, and individuals, to inform them of the use of force and live ammunition by Israeli troops against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the expulsion of Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories in violation of United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Convention, and the need to hold an international peace conference.

The memorandum called for the start of educational programmes on the Palestinian issue. YMCA movements such as those in the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Canada and U.K. have developed material on the subject.

A third call contained in the memorandum was for support of the World Alliance Refugees and

Rehabilitation Programme. It pointed out that individuals and associations could contribute to the Tadeusz Paczkowski Memorial Fund to publish the history of the YMCA's 40 years of service with Palestinian refugees and their contemporary situation and needs; and can include financial support for refugee services in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon.

The memorandum also reported a recent YMCA visit to Gaza and identified some of the root causes for the present uprising such as detention of boys and young people and the physical abuse by the Israeli authorities of prisoners at Ansar II detention camp.

In another report, released at the same time, the World Alliance of YMCA urged its members to support the people of South Africa, Namibia and the "front-line" states which "are struggling for their God-given human dignity and the total elimination of the inhuman system of apartheid."

PSD begins JD6m expansion plan to improve operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has decided to start implementing a three-year expansion scheme at a cost of JD 6 million and promote the department's operations and services.

The projects, to be executed between now and 1990, include setting up 16 new security centres, 10 maintenance workshops, five centres to operate highway patrol units and other administration buildings in different parts of the country, according to a PSD plan announced Saturday.

The main goal of the plan is to set up PSD-owned buildings and facilities and dispense with rented buildings.

Interviewed by Al Rai Arabic daily, Colonel Abdul Salam Nimer, director of PSD's buildings department, said the security centres project entail the installation of special computerised equipment and laying cables required for command and control operations.

These operations include, monitoring of roads through a television camera, a system which will greatly facilitate police traffic work, Col. Nimer explained.

He said that the 10 maintenance workshops would be built in Aqaba, Maan, Karak, Zarqa, Amman, Irbid and Mafraq, and would help save time and expenses that would otherwise involve sending police vehicles to the PSD's central workshops in Amman.

According to Col. Nimer, nearly 80 per cent of work had been completed on a PSD reformatory and rehabilitation centre for prisoners. The new centre, located at Swaga, will be ready for occupancy by August 1988, Col. Nimer said. He said that the JD 4.745 million centre was a comprehensive compound with facilities for vocational training and other utilities designed to reform inmates and prepare them to become useful members of society.

Ajlouni, businessmen review plans for tourism company

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni met in Amman Sunday with members of the Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen Society to discuss setting up a joint Jordanian-Egyptian tourism investment company.

A decision on establishing the company was taken by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in its last meeting. Promoting tourism in the southern regions of Sinai and Jordan, including Petra and Aqaba was set as the main operation of the company.

Sunday's talks covered the basic measures to be taken for

setting up the company, fixing its capital and defining its objectives, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

Ajlouni also discussed with the businessmen means of increasing income accruing from tourism in Egypt and Jordan and means of promoting tourist attractions in the two countries, the statement said.

The meeting also discussed subjects that are to be taken up by a general meeting of the society in Aqaba on Feb. 25. The meeting will be attended by Ajlouni and his Egyptian counterpart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves cooperation programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi and approved the executive programme of cultural cooperation with Czechoslovakia. The Cabinet decided to form the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Inter-Arab Information Standing Committee, due to be held in Tunis on Feb. 17. The delegation will be headed by Jordanian News Agency Director General Ali Al Safadi. Also at its Sunday meeting, the Cabinet endorsed the appointment of Maurice Khalaf as New Zealand's honorary consul to Jordan.

French books go on exhibition today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A wide collection of French books will be on display for the first time at the French Cultural Centre on Feb. 8-10. The French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Jordan Distribution Agency have brought a variety of books on photography, Jordan, the classics and many others published by Larousse-Natman International. Director of the French courses and head of this exhibition, Jean Michael Coste, said that the Jordan Distribution Agency suggested this exhibition because "there were not many French books on the bookshelves in Jordan."



MAJALI INSPECTS FORCES: Public Security Director General Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali inspects public security troops, after inaugurating a new military camp for two police units. The inauguration was attended by assistants to the PSD director and senior police officers.

Patriarch Sabbah lauds King's efforts for just peace in Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah Sunday lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts for achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East through a U.N.-sponsored international conference.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the people of the Holy Land and Jerusalem are yearning for genuine peace after long years of suffering, and they hope that the King will be successful in his endeavours to bring about a lasting settlement.

The patriarch, now on a visit to Amman following his consecration on Jan. 6 in Rome by Pope John Paul II, said that he was bringing a message of peace from the Holy Land which has been witnessing an uprising against Israeli occupation rule.

The uprising is of concern to all the believers in God, because it embodies the problem of those suffering from the present situation; and it is an earnest move towards liberation and justice and peace, Patriarch Sabbah said.

He said that the Pope's attitude towards the situation in the occu-



Michel Sabbah

pled Arab territory is well-known and his endeavours to end the Arab-Israeli conflict "stems from Jesus Christ's peace mission in the Holy Land."

The consecration of the 54-year-old Sabbah, as the first Arab to head Jerusalem Patriarchy for Latin-rite Catholics has been described by the Vatican as a strictly religious affair.

The consecration of Sabbah as patriarch came after the Pope

called for peace in the Israeli occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the interview with Petra, the patriarch said he was an active contributor to the ongoing Islamic-Christian dialogue.

"I always looked to the Islamic heritage as an Arab heritage and a Christian-Arab heritage, and as such I consider both as one heritage which can lead to genuine, close cooperation between Christians and Muslims, further deepening understanding among the believers of the two faiths," Patriarch Sabbah noted.

He voiced hope that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will be successful in his genuine endeavours to lead the dialogue towards serving the cause of the two religions and the cause of peace and cooperation between Christians and Muslims.

Patriarch Sabbah who arrived in Amman from Jerusalem across the King Hussein Bridge last Friday, is due to return to Jerusalem on Friday after completing his visit here and holding talks with officials and religious leaders.

Engineers association gears up for elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Engineers' Association (JEA) is gearing up for this month's election of a new president and board members and one prominent engineer has already announced intention to seek the post of president.

The sole candidate is Laith Shbeilat, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, who has been a JEA member for many years.

Eight members have

announced plans to seek board membership and four others are seeking the post of vice president.

Under the JEA law, the current JEA president, Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, cannot nominate himself

for the two-year presidency since he has already served in the post for two successive mandates. The election, to be held on Feb. 26, will follow JEA's general assembly meetings on Feb. 19 and 22.

Arab Thought Forum continues meetings

Scholars propose ways to end Lebanon's crisis

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The socio-economic and political structure in Lebanon had all the elements of a civil war before the actual outbreak of the bloody crisis in 1975, Lebanese scholars said Sunday and proposed several measures to overcome the crisis which has threatened to "destroy the whole country."

The scholars told the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum that the Lebanese crisis was caused by "external Arab and Palestinian intervention" and that the internal socio-political structure of the Lebanese society "was waiting for the spark" that ignited the 13-year-old crisis.

Addressing the second session on the socio-economic dimensions of the Lebanese war, Dr. Elias Saba said there was still a chance to get the country out of its present economic crisis.

"The problem is not caused by economic or social backwardness or by poverty," Saba explained. "It is caused by mismanagement."

As a way out of the present crisis, the Lebanese scholar recommended four steps to reviving the Lebanese economy:

— An agreement for developing the economic system as part of a political agreement on the future of Lebanon.

— The recruitment of efficient and credible elements to take charge of the public sector.

— The establishment of a balance between government spending and revenues, and

— The reformulation of Lebanon's role so as it does not rely on "connections" but on proficiency, specialisation and productivity.

Addressing the same subject, Dr. Kamal Hamdan said the Lebanese war has imposed several changes in the country's socio-economic structure including the strangling of the services industries, the flight of productivity elements and the restructuring of the private sector towards a foreign oriented trading.

On Lebanon's future prospects, Hamdan drew three scenarios:

— A deterioration in the political situation and the institutionalisation of cantonic divisions. In this lies a political and

economic suicide of the country, because Lebanon will lose the necessary integration of its broader economic elements.

— The renewal of a factional settlement among the various parties of the Lebanese "bourgeoisie" and its social and religious segments, through reciprocal compromises. This stands in the way of the establishment of a state with a central role that could carry out a real developmental drive. Such a settlement will not solve any problem and will not produce a united people or a united state, army or economy.

— The emergence of an enlightened "bourgeois" revolution that links its interests with those of the state and transcends political and factional personalities. This revolution would aim at establishing political, economic and social reform, the gradual abolishment of factionalism, the development of the bases for democracy and proper representation, the restructuring of ties with Arab states, the redistribution of income and the limiting of exploitation.

Hamdan observed that the elements for the third possibility "are not yet ripe — though this may be the only possible chance."

Hamzeh lays foundation stone for college

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Sunday laid the foundation stone for a compound to house a nursing college and a paramedical institute to be set up at Yajouz near Zarqa.

In a speech at the ceremony, Hamzeh said the Health Ministry was striving to ensure basic health care for all citizens through establishing integrated health centres and nursing training facilities around the Kingdom.

Qualified nurses will be appointed at various health centres where they can help promote basic health services to the community, he said.

The ministry decided to build a new nursing college because the old building in Zarqa cannot cope with the increasing number of nurses and paramedics, Hamzeh said.

The old college now turns out a

limited number of nurses and midwives annually, but the new compound will be graduating some 100 nurses and 25 midwives every year, to Zarqa Governorate Health Department Director Noufan Humud said.

He said that the project which is to be set up on a 10,000 square metres of land will include classrooms, laboratories, store houses, administration wing, conference hall, staff rooms, and an operation theatre.

Dr. Maurice P. Dahdaleh

M.B.B.S. (London), M.R.C.P. (U.K.)
NEUROLOGIST

Has moved his private clinic from Palestine Hospital to its new premises at 31, Ibn Khaldoun Street, Jabal Amman, (near Khalidi Hospital and opposite Rawhi Pharmacy)

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Seminar held on status of handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — A one day seminar on legislations covering the status of handicapped persons in Jordan was held here Sunday under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

The prince who addressed the meeting said that the seminar was devoted to discussing legislations that can help the handicapped adapt to society.

The Ministry of Social Development has now embarked on working out a legislation for handicapped people, and the new civil service law has opened the doors for all handicapped persons to be appointed in government departments, Prince Ra'd said.

Peace marcher to visit Gulf war front

KUWAIT (R) — A 24-year-old Jordanian who is walking around the world said Sunday he planned to visit the Iran-Iraq war front to appeal for peace.

Walid Mohammad Al Amaireh arrived in Kuwait late Saturday after a 4,500-kilometre trek from Jordan via Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

He told the Kuwait News Agency KUNA he hoped next to reach the front, 160 kilometres away, where he would appeal for peace even though Iran refused to listen.

Amaireh plans to walk through 168 countries over the next 10 years carrying peace banners. He said he hoped he could return at the end of his trip and find the Arab World united as a single nation.



The 'psyche of defeat', capacity for change, and the Western media's double standard

By Rami G. Khouri

The following remarks were delivered by Jordan Times editor-in-chief Rami G. Khouri in Washington, D.C. recently at the Shirley and Burt Harris Symposium on Middle East Communication, "Arabs, Israelis and Americans: Media images and the Problem of Communication," which was sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Part two of Mr. Khouri's remarks will appear in tomorrow's newspaper.

WE HAVE to keep in mind that the dominant reality in the Arab-Israeli question is that we are in a state of war, and that there are 5 million Palestinians who are stateless. Though they may have passports from other Arab or foreign countries, they are stateless in their souls and in their psyches. Even with passports, they are yearning for a homeland. They are like the Jews of the late nineteenth century, when there was a modern political Zionist movement among European Jews who had passports but wanted a homeland.

We are in that same situation today in the Middle East. There is a state of Israel that has its land, but it is not at peace. It is fighting across its borders and it is waging war within its borders as an occupying power. The dominant reality in the Middle East is warfare, and the media only reflects that reality of warfare. You cannot separate the media from the political reality on the ground and from the context from which it springs.

The media, like the universities of the Middle East, or the labour unions of the Arab World or any institutional structure, such as parliaments, are really only a reflection of a political reality on the ground. Arab media — television, radio and news agencies — are, with one or two exceptions, owned by the government. They are spokesmen for government policies. The printed press, whether in Arab countries or the privately-owned, off-shore press in Europe, Cyprus and other places, also generally reflects either the thinking of governments or the thinking of political groupings and tendencies in the Arab World. My impression is that the Israeli printed press reflects political parties and ideologies rather than reflecting actual government policies. The net result is that organs of the media reflect certain political positions.

The situation of the Arab media reflects an element of contradiction. I would not use the word "confusion," but it is something akin to that. There is an apparent contradiction between the reality of warfare and the fact that we now look at Israel; that we do not go around, as we used to years ago, calling it the "gangster state" or the "murdering state" or the "Israeli enemy" or the "Zionist enemy." Many media in the Arab World now talk openly of Israel and they refer rather matter-of-factly to the Israeli prime minister doing this or doing that.

In this respect, there is certainly a definite change. But the Arab media's job is not to make peace. Unlike the media in Israel or overseas, the Arab media does not see itself responsible for promoting communication with Israel. It's not their job. Perhaps this is unfortunate, but this is a reality we have to deal with.

The Arab media's basic role — perhaps not by volition, perhaps by the circumstances of the political reality — is to reflect a certain dominant power structure that pertains throughout the Arab World. The Arab world is part of the Third World. We do not have long-established institutional structures of political participation and public accountability. We would very much like to have these and this is a powerful story in the Arab World that the Western media is missing. The point is that we are traditional, patriarchal societies.

This is the Third World and it would be silly if we were to make

believe that this were not the case and that the Arab press could participate in a process of communication and enhancement of the prospects for peace. We are just not yet at that point.

There is a dichotomy in how the Arab World looks at Israel. If you look at the media, for instance, there is an interest in Israel throughout the Arab World. It stems from a realization that we were wrong to have ignored Israel. We were wrong not to have mentioned the word "Israel." We were wrong to have made believe that our enemy did not exist. We realise that we were wrong.

We have paid for our mistakes in several wars, in the perpetual occupation of our territories and in the continual expansion of Israel's political control over the Palestinians inside Israel and in adjacent territories, that were occupied; we paid for our mistakes in Israel's ability to set zones of influence around it; and we paid for our mistakes in Israel's ability to influence and even dictate the kinds of arms that can be sold to countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

We realise that we cannot just make believe Israel does not exist. So, now there are Hebrew programmes on Arab radio and television stations. There are people taking Hebrew classes in Jordan, and there is an Institute for Hebrew Studies at Yarmouk University.

This is all part of a process by which we are looking at the Israelis in order to understand Israeli society. We realise that they have beaten us badly. We also realise that we have not given up, that the status quo is not an eternal situation that we are happy to live with. If we are going to engage the enemy — either in peace or war — we have to know the enemy. That is what is happening now.

Learning about the 'Enemy'

The question is: Is this Arab

interest in Israel really a sign that the conflict is settling down and in fact, getting better? Or, rather, is this only the beginning of a psychological process in which we realise that we are in for a long-haul conflict, and that in order to fight the battle properly, we have to know the enemy, and this is all part of the process of knowing our enemy? Fighting the battle, of course, can mean diplomacy as well as war. I am not saying that there is going to be a great war, necessarily. There may be a great peace conference, but in either case, you must know the person you are dealing with.

Palestinians go to Israel and often see it as an organised society where people deal with each other in a very methodical manner, where the streets are, perhaps, cleaner than ours. In fact, most such descriptions are not always accurate, but it is what one believes that is important. One is describing the enemy who has beaten him, and one looks at the enemy and says that they have incredible things in medicine and can do fantastic operations — not realising that we in Jordan are now performing heart transplants and bone marrow transplants.

This is the psyche of defeat. Many Arabs look at Israel and are awed by some of the things they see — technology, freedom of the press, research output of the universities, the ability to manufacture arms and sell them to NATO, the ability to make adjustments on the F-16s and F-15s and sell them to the United States. It is quite extraordinary. People look at Israel in amazement. Perhaps this is a way in which we can make our political defeat palatable, because now we feel as if we have been beaten.

We have not given up, but we have been beaten for the moment. The Israelis have taken all of Palestine. They have all the Palestinians in their territories under their control. They can dictate terms around the area. This is one of the consequences of defeat.

In a way, what we are seeing is the Arab World entering Phase Three of the struggle. We are saying, "Alright, we did not do a very good job between 1900 and 1948, and we did a lousy job from 1948 to 1982." Now, we are in the third phase and the Arabs are looking at Israel and asking themselves, "Why is it that this little

country has beaten us, taken our land, and gotten the United States against us?" We are looking at Israel and saying that we have got to know these people. So, I do not think that the Arab media is reflecting a status quo situation in which the conflict is settling down with each side talking to one another.

The role of the American media

The Arab media, as I said, is a reflection of Arab political reality. We cannot expect the media to be any different than the governments. But we can expect more from the Western media. The American media, in particular, has been extremely superficial in dealing with the human and political realities that exist on the ground in the Middle East.

Take, for instance, the Arab position on the international conference; the PLO position since the mid-1970s on its willingness to accept the partition of Palestine and a West Bank-Gaza, Arab-Palestinian mini-state, confederated with Jordan, with East Jerusalem as its capital; or the PLO's willingness to negotiate such a solution at an international peace conference. These are positions which the Arabs have taken which I think are extremely significant in showing the kinds of compromise that have taken place, the kind of evolution in the Arab side toward moderation and realism. The Arab press, however, has not succeeded in projecting this image of change.

The U.S. press has a major role to play in the process of communication. But I think it has largely missed its opportunity to be an impartial observer and conveyor of information. To a great extent, the American media has played within the ground rules established by the U.S. government, which largely reflect the perceptions of the Israeli government.

There are always exceptions you can point to, but just look at the U.S. position of Resolution 242, on Soviet participation in the Middle East peace conference, or at the necessity of prior Arab acceptance of Israel's right to exist. These positions are very strongly projected by the American and Western press as a

whole. They are taken for granted. I do not expect the Arab and the Israeli media to be particularly impartial to one another, but I do expect the American and the Western press to be much more probing in their writing and their analyses of the Middle East.

The basic question that has to be resolved by the American and Western media is: Do the Palestinians have the same right to statehood, sovereignty, self-determination and human dignity as the Israeli people? Do they have the same right to a passport and a flag as the Israelis?

We, Arabs and Palestinians, think they do. If the West agrees that we have those rights, then it should not be difficult to reach a negotiating framework that gives us those rights.

We are on record saying that we will coexist with the Israelis and that we will deal with the international legitimacy of Israel. There is one condition: That Israel deals with the Palestinians' right to national self-determination. This is the core, this is the base. Do the Western media think it is right that the Palestinians should have a country or do they not think it is right? This is a question the West has to answer.

The capacity for moderation and change

I would suggest that the American and Western media have largely missed conveying to their readers the two most significant political developments in the Middle East in the last 15 years.

First, they have not adequately reported the trend of Arab moderation and compromise with the Arab World now saying it is willing to go to an international conference, to negotiate with the Israelis, and to sign a peace treaty. The PLO says it is willing to have less than an independent state, that it is willing to confederate with Jordan. In response, the Israelis and Americans largely say, "We do not believe you. Prove it to us. Accept 242." The Arabs say, "We cannot accept 242. You accept self-determination for the Palestinians first."

As a result, we are stuck in the same cycle we have been in for 15 or 20 years. But there has been significant change from the Khartoum summit of 1967, when the

Arabs said "no negotiations, no peace, and no coexistence" with Israel. Since the Fez summit of 1982, our position has been "yes, we will negotiate with Israel; yes, we will accept the international legitimacy of Israel; yes, we will go to an international conference; yes, we will coexist with Israel. This extraordinary change has neither been reflected clearly in the Western media or in the Israeli media.

The single most important thing the Western press could do is to recognise the capacity for change. There has been a fundamental transformation from Khartoum to Fez and this maturity has to be acknowledged.

By the same token, we have to acknowledge change within Israel, to the point that today 45-50 per cent of Israelis say they would withdraw from all the occupied territories and maybe even dismantle the settlements if they were given real guarantees of peace from the Arabs. There are other positive changes, such as the fact that there are now 15 or 20 members of the Knesset who support the idea of negotiating with the Palestinians and even with the PLO, who support withdrawing from the territories and would even consider the establishment of a Palestinian state, if Israel received adequate security guarantees.

We must look at the enemy and recognise that he is also a human being with the capacity for change. Even the United States — the Great Satan, as the Iranians would say — has changed. Between Camp David and the Reagan Plan, there were major, important changes. For the first time, the Reagan Plan talks about the fact that Israel should not control or occupy the territories permanently. This is good. This is movement. While we don't accept the Reagan Plan, we should still acknowledge the progress it made. We cannot look at the enemy in black and white and say it is all good or all bad.

Randa Habib's Corner

To say or not to say

THE OTHER day, my friends and I were discussing whether it was generally better to be talkative, to talk less or not to talk at all. The discussion was prompted by an earlier one about the slips of the tongue and the problems that usually follow.

"Silence is gold," a friend contributed. There was a brief silence before another said: "Talkative people are generally more popular than reserved people. You've got to admit that cheerful people, who tell all the jokes, who are open in conversation, are much more fun."

"Yes," agreed the first friend, "but a silent person is full of appealing mystery. You cannot help but respect this kind of people as they rarely utter the wrong word at the wrong time."

"Perhaps," said the second friend, "one must find the right formula, like in everything else in life. Not to be a blabber and not to be mute like an oyster."

The first friend went on to argue that talkative people are more relaxing and interesting. "Conversations do not always have to be serious."

"Perhaps not. But prating is often indiscreet, and in that sense, always harmful," responded the other.

I don't know which of my friends was more right. But this reminded me of what one person once said about silent people: "They have nothing to say and they are clever enough not to waste their energy by proving it... in words."

Another wise man once said: "What is more important than learning a new language, is to have something worthwhile to say it with."

Naturally, there are many people who have important things to say — whose contributions in speech are badly needed and necessary.

As for me, I think the best thing to do is to ... well, I think, on second thought, I am better off keeping my opinion to myself.

Regent meets Bulgarian leader

(Continued from page 1)
Soviet consensus on the Middle East.

Tanchev voiced concern over Israel's nuclear capabilities and said the nuclear weapons in the Zionist state's possession pose a grave danger to the entire Middle East region.

Tanchev referred to the visit of the King to Moscow in December as an event that attracted the attention of the Socialist countries.

The ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, he said, is a clear evidence that Israel's occupation of Arab land should not continue.

Bulgaria looks forward to further bolstering cooperation with Jordan in all fields, the vice president said.

The Bulgarian leader conveyed to Lawzi greetings from President Zhivkov and an invitation to visit Bulgaria.

Lawzi spoke in detail about the Middle East problem and Jordan's efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement.

He expressed hope that Bulgaria would exercise pressure on the Soviet Union to place the Gulf war and the Palestine question on the list of priorities for next superpower summit.

Beilin does not rule out peace force

(Continued from page 1)

for some weeks in order to see whether there is a possibility to find a common denominator, even a vague one, between all the parties, and then to launch on the procedural process. So, I do see a chance for this plan or initiative to succeed," he said.

"I believe that it will be possible to deal first with the substantial common denominator be-

tween Jordan, the Palestinians, the Egyptians and Israel," he said.

That common denominator, he said, is U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Beilin, a close adviser to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, said it was important to involve both Jordan and the Palestinians "in the new agreement which will evolve now in the Middle East on the basis of 242."

Strike, protests rage in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

with protesters building barricades and pelting police in the hillside areas of Silwan and Jabal Makaber.

In Jabal Makaber, officers commandeered an ambulance from the Makassad Hospital, ordered the Arab driver out, packed it with police and drove it into the village to surprise stone-throwers. Three Arabs were arrested.

A 17-year-old Palestinian woman was killed and five men were wounded Saturday in the West Bank.

Settlers drove into Hebron overnight and smashed windows of Arab-owned cars, an army spokesman said.

In the Gaza Strip, one Palestinian was wounded by an Israeli truck driver who opened fire after his vehicle was stoned, hospital officials said.

In addition, 32 Palestinians were hospitalised in Gaza City with beating injuries, hospital officials said.

Fifteen-year-old Rami Aklouk from Deir Al Balah died from a brain hemorrhage suffered after a soldier beat him with a club Saturday, Mukassad officials said.

Also, 10-year-old Tamer Jallal Assoufi died of wounds suffered five days ago when he was struck in the head during a clash in the northern West Bank village of Burqa, the army said.

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Yugoslavia, Italy advance to Davis Cup second round

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Yugoslavia's giant-serving Slobodan Zivonjovic overwhelmed Vijay Amritraj to put India, last year's beaten finalists, out of the Davis Cup in the first round Sunday.

Zivonjovic won 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to give Yugoslavia a 3-2 victory after Ramesh Krishnan had levelled the tie 2-2 by beating Bruno Oresar 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

India's defeat came less than two months after they lost 5-0 to Sweden in the 1987 final in Gothenburg.

After dropping the first two games of the match, Zivonjovic, the world number 22, dominated the contest with his fiery brand of attacking tennis.

His thunderous serve was his most effective weapon and the 34-year-old Amritraj found his vast experience became increasingly irrelevant.

He tried his best to subdue the Yugoslav from the back of the court but was unable to keep him away from the net and the match was over in two hours.

Yugoslavia will be at home to Italy in the quarter-finals in April.

Italy clinched the quarter-final place Sunday when Paolo Cane bounced back from first-set nerves to crush Israeli Gilad Bloom in Palermo, Sicily.

Cane won 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-0 to

give the home side an unassailable 3-1 lead.

The Italian number one, whose greatest drawback is his inconsistency and volatile temperament, started hesitantly, making 24 unforced errors in the first nine games against eight from his solid opponent.

But he pulled himself together in the second set, rediscovering his fine strokeplay, particularly on the backhand, and winning it in 35 minutes.

In Kuala Lumpur, Sri Lanka completed a 4-1 win over Malaysia in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group Two first round tie Sunday by winning both reverse singles.

Arjun Fernando beat Chow Chin Chuan 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 and Umeh Walloppillai beat V. Selvam 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 (both sides agreed to a best-of-three sets match).

Sri Lanka will meet Pakistan in the second round in Colombo from April 8-10.

In Manila, the Philippines won both reverse singles to beat Japan 3-2, in the other Asia/Oceania Zone Group One tie.

Results: Andres Batta beat Chigeru Ohta 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Raymond Suarez beat Toshetsu Tsuchihashi 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The Philippines will play South Korea in the group semifinals in Seoul.

Defending Champion Sweden, Czechoslovakia and West Germany clinched first-round victories in Davis Cup competition Saturday.

West Germany completed a 5-0 victory over Brazil in their World Group tie by winning the reverse singles Sunday. Patrick Kuehnen beat Luiz Mattar 9-7, 6-3 and Carl-Uwe Steeb beat Cassio Motta 6-1, 6-2.

Sweden also completed a 5-0 victory over New Zealand in their World Group tie by winning both of Sunday's reverse singles matches.

Anders Jarryd beat Kelly Evernden 8-6, 4-6, 11-9 and Stefan Edberg beat Bruce Derlin 6-1, 6-2.

In Basle, Henri Leconte beat Roland Stadler of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in the first reverse singles to give France a 3-1 winning lead in their World Group first round tie Sunday.

In Jakarta, Indonesia's Subaryadi and Donald Wailan Walalangi defeated Thailand's Vorapol Thongkanchu and Thanakorn Sunday.

Maradona goal keeps Napoli ahead

ROME (R) — Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona scored a blistering second-half goal Sunday as champions Napoli overcame lowly Pisa 2-1 to maintain their four-point lead over AC Milan at the top of the Italian league.

Milan, who beat Cesena 3-0, were given a great start when their Dutch European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit ham-

pered the ball through a defensive wall and past the Cesena goalkeeper from a free kick in the 13th minute.

Napoli, who had their last away meeting with Pisa reversed from a 1-0 defeat to a 2-0 win for the champions after midfielder Alessandro Renica had been injured by a coin thrown from the stands, quickly stamped their mark on the game.

Renica exacted his revenge in the 13th minute, heading home after Maradona had lofted a free kick into the area.

Maradona, the league's top goalscorer this season with 11 goals, extended Napoli's advantage with an almost identical goal to Gullit's — powered straight into the left-hand corner of the net from a free kick in the 75th minute.

Pisa, demoralised but still fighting, pulled back within a minute through a goal by Stefano Cuoghi.

Napoli lead the division with 31 points, followed by Milan on 27 and Roma, who were booed off the pitch after drawing 0-0 with relegation-threatened Avellino, third with 24.

The results reassert Napoli's and Milan's stranglehold.

Juventus, celebrating former Italian captain Antonio Cabrini's 400th game for the club, went down to a surprise 2-0 defeat away at newly-promoted Pescara, while Sampdoria saw an early lead against Verona turn into a 3-1 defeat.

Internazionale, in fifth position, failed to capitalise on an early goal at bottom-of-the-league Empoli and were punished in the second half with an equaliser by Settimio Lucci.



JORDAN BEATS FURUKAWA: Jordan's national football team Sunday downed Japan's Furukawa, the 1986 Asian soccer champions, 1-0 in a friendly match played at Amman's Sports City stadium. Captain Khalid Awad was the scorer. Picture shows the Jordanian goalkeeper, Izat Hashem, diving for the ball ahead of Furukawa captain Masaki Kanno (white) as Jordanian defender Issam Al Talli (No. 6) blocks Kanno (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

IOC finds no softening of N. Korean position

CALGARY (R) — Olympics chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said Saturday he had detected no softening by North Korea in its decision to boycott the Seoul Games in September.

The president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) told Reuters he had a cordial meeting Friday with North Korean Olympic officials, but saw no evidence that Pyongyang was contemplating any climbdown on its boycott decision.

He was commenting on a Japanese news agency report from Calgary suggesting the North Korean National Olympic Committee (NOC) might be

wavering in its plan to stay away from the Seoul Games.

Other IOC sources said that, as far as any further negotiations with Pyongyang were concerned, Samaranch would prefer to deal with a more high-powered delegation than that presently in

Canada hoists the first flag

CALGARY (AP) — Host Canada became the first team to raise its flag at the Olympic village in a ceremony Saturday that underlined security concerns at the Winter Games.

Nearly 2,000 athletes and team officials from 57 nations will be housed in seven dormitories at

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Calgary to attend next week's full IOC session.

"The delegation does not have the right people. These people are nothing more than messengers," the sources added.

the University of Calgary campus for the games.

Another 593 biathlon and cross-country athletes will reside at the Canmore Olympic Village, some 80 kilometres west of Calgary in the Rocky Mountains.

Protection for teams has been paramount at every Olympics since the 1972 Munich Summer Games.

While there are no soldiers with automatics on guard, as at the last Winter Games four years ago in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, the Calgary organisers seem well prepared to shield Olympic village residents.

Journalists are already feeling the security pinch.

About three dozen newsmen who attended the Canadian flag-raising were first searched in a secure room at the visitor's building before being escorted by police past checkpoints on the fences and into the village.

They passed through two sets of 2.5-metre chain-link fences surrounding the village residences, including a double fence with electric sensors at the inner perimeter.

About 50 members of the Canadian team — mostly speedskaters and bobsledders clad in crimson snow suits — watched their flag raised to a recording of the Canadian anthem.

Housing, transportation problem seen in Calgary

CALGARY (AP) — With the Winter Olympics one week away, organisers are worried that some arriving tourists might be without rooms and transportation.

Investigations into a possible booking agency scam occupied local authorities and Calgary Organising Committee (COC) members as preparations neared completion for the Feb. 13-28 games.

A spokesperson for the COC said there was concern over a "potential problem" with housing and transportation for Olympic visitors after the head of a Calgary booking agency, World Marketing Services Inc., apparently left the company.

The organising committee said its main concern was confirming transportation arrangements for those who had booked through

World Marketing

The Calgary Herald reported in Saturday's editions that World Marketing may be holding 300 reservations on which deposits have not been made, even though Olympic tour package buyers across Canada and Europe made full payment on the rooms to World Marketing. Other rooms may have been double booked, the paper said, quoting unnamed sources.

"It's a disaster," the paper quotes one high-ranking committee official as saying.

Calgary police confirmed they were investigating the matter.

Canada's own Olympic team was officially welcomed into the athletes' village Saturday, one day after teams from Korea, Liechtenstein, Poland, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia arrived in this southern Alberta oil and ranching centre.

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(Answers Monday)

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Nunn proposes cutback in European conventional forces

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee is seeking NATO support for a plan to reduce allied and Warsaw Pact conventional forces. But he says further theater cuts in nuclear arms could point Europe down a "slippery slope" to Soviet domination.

Senator Sam Nunn, an opposition Democrat, unveiled his conventional-force proposal in an address to NATO's Wehrkunde Conference in Munich, West Germany. Copies of the speech were released in advance in Washington.

Nunn's proposal calls for the long-distance pullback of entire military units.

After Nunn's presentation, Senate majority leader Robert Byrd challenged the alliance to present a full-fledged force reduction proposal to the Soviets this year.

"No matter how sincere may be the Soviets call for total nuclear disarmament, there remains

the dark truth that their offense rests less on the bomb than on the foot soldier," Byrd said.

"We must sharpen the sense of need for continued deterrence in Europe," Byrd said. "And we must test the Soviets with ever tougher initiatives for peace — real peace, not the image of peace."

Nunn's speech addressed NATO's future and the fate of arms control in the aftermath of the new treaty to eliminate medium-range Soviet and U.S. missiles in Europe.

He called for the withdrawal of many conventional combat units and the posting of inspectors at airfields, railroad yards

and military headquarters to provide early warning of the mobilisation of Soviet ground forces.

With medium-range missiles destroyed, Nunn said, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) must make "revolutionary" improvements in its conventional forces while presenting Moscow with innovative arms control proposals.

At the same time, he said, the European and American publics must be educated as to why conventional arms improvements are needed now and why Europe cannot be quickly demilitarised.

He said the contributions of the medium-range treaty to the defence of NATO ultimately will be judged by the road the alliance now chooses to travel.

"One NATO road leads backwards down a slippery slope to European denuclearisation, American disengagement and

Soviet domination," Nunn said. "The other NATO road leads forward to the solid ground of solidarity, stability and security."

Nunn said warning signals along the way include a growing "nuclear allergy" in the West, especially West Germany, where he said many question the decision to postpone talks on short-range nuclear systems pending reduction of Soviet conventional superiority.

Explaining his conventional reduction plan, Nunn said removal of entire Soviet combat units makes verification far easier than just reducing the overall number of tanks to a common ceiling.

He said units — divisions, regiments and battalions — should be sent far enough away to make their return difficult and time-consuming. The object, he said, is to equalise reinforcement time for American forces withdrawn to U.S. soil.

Dole, Gephardt leading in Iowa, poll shows

DES MOINES (R) — Republican Robert Dole and Democrat Richard Gephardt headed into Monday's presidential voting here at the top of the pack, according to a closely watched poll.

The Des Moines Register newspaper said Saturday the survey showed Senate Republican leader Dole ahead of Vice President George Bush by 14 points and Gephardt, a Missouri congressman, ahead of Illinois Senator Paul Simon by six points.

Dole's margin was about the same as in the previous survey three weeks ago, but Gephardt's lead increased from a poll taken two weeks ago.

The previous Democratic poll showed Gephardt, Simon and Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts in a virtual tie for the lead.

Monday's caucuses are the first big test of the 1988 presidential campaign and a poor showing here can be devastating to a candidate's long-term prospects.

The new poll carried bad news for former Colorado Senator Gary Hart, pushing him down to sixth place among the seven Democrats. Hart, the one-time frontrunner who quit the race amid a sex scandal last May and returned in December, was fourth in the previous Register poll.

The latest poll showed 15 per cent of Democrats were undecided.

Other polls released in recent weeks have also found Dole and Gephardt leading.

The Register poll showed Bush, the national frontrunner, with 23 per cent compared to 37 per cent for Dole.

Former television Evangelist Pat Robertson was third with 13 per cent, followed by congressman Jack Kemp of New York with 11 per cent.

Among the Democrats Gephardt had 25 per cent, Simon 19 and Dukakis 15, with former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt and black rights leader Jesse Jackson tied at nine per cent each. Hart had seven per cent.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus four points.

As the Iowa campaign entered its final stage, Dole said he was tired of fighting with Bush. Dole, locked in a venomous verbal shootout with Bush campaign aides in recent days, even declared the feud over even though he resented what he called attacks on his integrity.

"If someone were to go after your integrity, you would resent it — particularly if it's not true," said Dole during an appearance on Des Moines.

"We've seen a lot of that in the last few days. As far as I'm concerned it's over."

Both the Bush and Dole campaigns have accused each other of dirty tactics and demanded apologies from each other in their battle for the Republican nomination.

Costa Rican leader calls for aid cutoff to Marxist rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Costa Rica President Oscar Arias said the Soviet Union and Cuba should cut off all aid to Marxist rebels in Central America now that the U.S. Congress has blocked further aid to the Nicaraguan contras, a published report Sunday said.

Arias, architect of the five-nation Central American peace plan, specifically called on the two countries to halt aid to rebels in Guatemala and El Salvador, the Washington Post reported.

In addition, Arias said the Soviets should end military aid to

the Sandinista government in Nicaragua because "disarmament is part of our plan."

He encouraged U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to open direct talks with Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Arias, in an interview at his home Saturday with the Post, said he planned to approach the Soviets and Cubans about the aid cutoff.

The U.S. administration of President Ronald Reagan lost its bid for additional contra aid in a congressional vote last week.

Head of Soviet state planning body changed in shakeup

MOSCOW (R) — Nikolai Talyzin, head of the powerful Soviet State Planning Commission, has been transferred to another government post, TASS news agency reported on Saturday.

Talyzin was criticised by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev last June, but analysts in Moscow cautioned that the significance of the move could not be evaluated yet.

TASS said Talyzin, 59, had been appointed chairman of the ministerial-level Bureau for Social Development. A non-voting member of the ruling politburo, he retains his post as first deputy prime minister.

His successor as chairman of

the Gosplan state planning body was named as Yuri Maslyukov, 50, a deputy prime minister who had been serving as head of the government's Military-Industrial Commission.

Maslyukov, a career defence industry administrator, was also promoted to the rank of first deputy prime minister.

The analysts said Talyzin's transfer could foreshadow his promotion to full membership of the politburo at a plenum of the Communist Party Central Committee later this month.

But if he did not achieve full voting membership in the politburo, his transfer away from Gosplan could represent a demotion.

Crossfire kills 4 civilians in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Four civilians were killed and three were wounded by crossfire in clashes between Tamil rebels and Indian soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka, police said Sunday.

Four civilians injured in clashes Friday died in hospital Saturday, police in Batticaloa town said.

The crossfire wounded three people when gunmen of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an Indian military jeep at Katsunai in

Batticaloa district Saturday, police said. A 40-minute gunbattle ensued.

Indian peace-keeping forces were sent to the island's north and east last July to enforce an Indian-brokered peace pact aimed at ending a five-year-old Tamil rebellion for a separate state.

The Tigers, the biggest rebel group, repudiated the accord and are putting up stiff resistance against Indian troops trying to disarm them.

Residents of Batticaloa town

meanwhile reported increasing Indian military activity there with "soldiers swarming all over."

"They are at every nook and corner. Three days ago Indian transport planes brought in at least 1,000 soldiers, raising their strength to about 15,000 (here) from about 6,000 last year," one prominent resident said.

Sri Lankan officials said Saturday that India was to boost its forces deployed in Sri Lanka to 70,000 this month from 55,000.

85 die in Brazilian floods

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Flood waters have started to recede in Rio de Janeiro state, where more than five days of flooding have left at least 85 people dead and thousands more homeless.

By nightfall Saturday, 58 bodies had been removed from debris of shacks buried by mudslides and landslides in the town of Petropolis, 50 kilometres north of Rio, the civil defence said.

The newly-recovered bodies brought the official death toll in the state to 85, although civil defence officials said they feared it was likely to exceed 100 dead.

At least 20 people were still missing from their homes in Petropolis, the civil defence said, but it could not rule out the possibility they had taken refuge in safe districts.

Petropolis mayor Paulo Rattes declared the town a disaster zone and was seeking aid from the federal government.

Engineers estimated that about 35 million cubic feet (one million cubic metres) of earth had been moved in slides as towns in the western area of Rio de Janeiro reported thousands of inhabitants had been made homeless by flooding which had virtually isolated whole towns.

But the civil defence said order was being restored although waters remained at flood level in many areas and lingering telephone and electricity outages were widespread.

Heavy rains subsided to an intermittent drizzle Friday evening. The weather office said almost 11.5 inches (29 cms) of rain had fallen on Greater Rio and nearby interior towns since Tuesday.

Parties back Mahathir after court ruling

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's major government parties have pledged full support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad after an unprecedented court ruling that his UMNO Party is illegal.

All the main groups in the country's 13-party coalition government issued statements saying the decision that the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) was an unlawful society did not affect Mahathir's position or their backing for him.

A high court ruled Thursday that UMNO was illegal since some of its branches had not been properly registered before a party congress convened in April and elected Mahathir as leader. The head of UMNO is traditionally prime minister.

Mahathir, 62, said Friday that his party would not appeal against the ruling and the government would function normally.

He brushed aside a reporter's suggestion that the judgment portended political instability. Soon after the ruling, the leader of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), the second most important party in the coalition, said it was confident that UMNO would overcome what it described as a small difficulty.

"MCA is not the type of party to run away from its friends," said Transport Minister Datuk Ling Liong Sik.

Speaking in the resort island of Penang Saturday, Works Minister Datuk Samy Vellu, who heads the Malaysian Indian Congress, said his party's support for Mahathir was unshaken.

Vellu said the margin of Mahathir's win in the last general election showed most Malaysians supported him.

In August 1986, Mahathir's "Barisan Nasional" Coalition won 148 of Malaysia's 177 parliamentary seats.

The leader of the multi-racial but Chinese-based Gerakan, another key coalition member, pledged undivided support for Mahathir and called on Malaysians to remain calm.

Messages of support also came from coalition parties based in the east Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak.

Franco's widow dies

MADRID (R) — The widow of the late Spanish dictator General Francisco Franco has died in her sleep of pneumonia, her doctor said. She was 87.

Carmen Polo de Franco contracted broncho-pneumonia five days ago but her condition had been deteriorating for about two months, Doctor Vicente Pozuelo told Spanish state radio and television, Saturday.

Carmen Polo had led a secluded life since the death in 1975 of her husband, who ruled Spain for almost 40 years.

They had one daughter, also called Carmen.

2 passenger planes in near-miss over England

LONDON (R) — Hundreds of air travellers came within seconds of disaster Saturday when a British Airways (BA) plane narrowly avoided collision with another aircraft over the coast of southern England, British Airways said.

British newspapers said passengers quoted crew members as saying the planes missed each other by just five feet (1.5

metres).

A BA spokesman said a Tristar jet carrying 327 passengers and 16 crew from Paris to London's Heathrow Airport had to swerve sharply to the right when the pilot spotted the other plane 300 metres away on collision course.

Both planes were flying at a height of 18,000 feet (5,500

Vietnam to free more from reeducation camps

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam will free more inmates of political re-education camps, including members of the top-level South Vietnamese government, during the upcoming Lunar New Year Festival, the Vietnam News Agency said Sunday.

The official agency said Hanoi also had proposed a one-day ceasefire along the unbuffered Sino-Vietnamese border to celebrate the Feb. 17 Lunar New Year.

The agency said the Council of State had decided to "free or commute the penalties of those convicts who have shown repentance and made substantial progress in the course of re-education."

These include many former officers and personnel of the Saigon (South Vietnamese) administration.

The Hanoi government says less than 1,000 people are now in the camps, established after the end of the Vietnam war in 1975 to hold hundreds of thousands of people. Some were detained for only short periods, but a small number have been held since 1975.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told a group of U.S. journalists and newspaper editors visiting Vietnam recently that his government intended to close the camps by the end of 1988.

U.S. Trident test fails again

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — A unarmed Trident-1 nuclear missile exploded Saturday seconds after it was launched from a submerged submarine in a test off the coast of central Florida, the navy said.

The navy said in a statement that a malfunction caused the missile to blow itself up over the Atlantic Ocean 18 seconds after launch from the USS Simon Bolivar.

It added that the cause of the malfunction could not be determined until experts study computer data from the test.

The launch was part of a series of routine tests of the operational Trident-1, which has been fired

29 times from submarines and 54 times overall, a navy spokesman said.

The failure came only two weeks after navy ground controllers destroyed an unarmed Trident-2 ballistic missile when it veered off course over the Atlantic during a test.

The Jan. 21 failure of the Trident-2, which was launched from a ground pad at Cape Canaveral air force station, was blamed on a malfunction in an electronic component.

The Trident-2 is scheduled to be deployed on U.S. submarines beginning in 1989 and will eventually replace the less-accurate Trident-1.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND ORAN SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ873 ♣J6 ♠62 ♠K8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q832 ♣762 ♠AJ3 ♠96
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠876 ♠AJ95 ♣QJ1032 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ762 ♣95 ♠A107 ♠K83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠83 ♣KQJ10762 ♠AJ ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ9 ♣QJ8 ♠AQ1063 ♠74
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Coffee, tea could end Olympic dreams

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — As little as a cup of coffee or a sip of the wrong type of tea could kill an Olympic athlete's dreams of glory before the games even begin, says a doctor who tests U.S. Olympic Athletes for drugs. Dr. Mary Ann Everhart is one of about 40 volunteer physicians who test athletes for drugs and advise them about substances to avoid to remain eligible for the winter and summer Olympics. "We talk with all the athletes about what is on the banned list, so they know what to stay away from," Everhart said. The typed, single-spaced list of substances banned by the U.S. Olympic Committee fills 50 pages and includes such stimulants as those found in coffee and some types of herbal tea. The list of allowable substances barely covers one page. "When the athletes ask what they can take, it's easiest to say, 'nothing,'" Everhart said.

Rugby club chief fined over cockerels

DOVER, England (AP) — The president of a French rugby club was fined £500 (\$865) Saturday for illegally importing two cockerels through its southern English port, intending to throw them on to the rugby field at the five nations match between Scotland and France in Edinburgh. Rene Barrat explained that it was a traditional ritual, and that his club did not realise it was committing an offence by taking the birds across the channel from France. The two birds were found in a cardboard box on the club's coach and had now been destroyed. Dover magistrates were told. Alan Gay, of Kent County Council, told the magistrates the birds could have ended up anywhere, and it could have resulted in the spread of deadly fowl pest. Barrat, a 33-year-old factory worker from Tulle, also was ordered to pay £50 (\$86.5) costs for importing the two cockerels without the necessary licence from the British Ministry of Agriculture. His solicitor, Robert Thompson, said that not only had his client been forced to spend the night in police custody at Dover, but it was now impossible for him to attend the match at Murrayfield. But he would have been disappointed with his team as Scotland triumphed 23-12.

Driver finds currency, jewellery in garbage

MOSCOW (AP) — Edvard Nosevich was cleaning garbage out of a cattle shed at his country house near Vilnius, Lithuania when he found a small fortune in currency and jewellery. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Friday that Nosevich, a driver, dug a cement bag out of his cattle shed in the village of Tienai that contained \$1,675, 186 Canadian dollars, and 400 Deutsch Marks. He also found 247 gold rubles minted before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, 74 wedding rings, two silver ingots and a variety of gold earrings, bracelets and chains, Pravda said. It said the cache has been turned over to the Soviet Finance Ministry in Moscow. Soviet citizens who find such valuables often are given a reward of a percentage of its value, but in most cases it is illegal for them to own any kind of foreign currency. Pravda did not say how the currency and jewellery may have gotten into Nosevich's cattle shed, how long it was there, or give an estimate of its value. It said Nosevich, who lives in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, bought the country house 10 years ago after its previous owner died, and visits it periodically.

Youth kills grandmother for drug money

ROME (AP) — A 22-year-old drug addict seeking money to buy heroin forced his way into his grandmother's apartment Saturday and stabbed her to death with a screwdriver, an Italian News Agency said. The news agency AGI said 73-year-old Mari DeFilippi was beaten unconscious, and later strangled and then stabbed in the jugular vein with a screwdriver. Police arrested Andrea Salvatori near Rome's central train station with some of his grandmother's gold jewellery in his possession, the agency said. It said that before his arrest, Salvatori already had purchased two doses of heroin for himself and a girlfriend. Police told the agency that Salvatori was picked up during a sweep of drug addicts and later made statement about the killing. The agency said Salvatori forced his way through the door, beat his grandmother unconscious and then searched the apartment for valuables. The agency said when his grandmother regained consciousness before he was finished, he strangled her and then stabbed her with the screwdriver.

Gunman kills 3 at family gathering

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas (AP) — A gunman opened fire at a celebration for his parents' wedding anniversary and daughter's birthday, killing his father, brother and girlfriend before critically wounding himself, authorities said. The gunman, Thomas Schrader, 33, was transported to Ami Hospital in Hot Springs, said officer Michael McCormick of the Hot Springs Police Department. A hospital spokeswoman said late Saturday that Schrader's condition was critical. Two of the dead were identified as William Schrader, 66, and Steven Schrader, 38. Police did not immediately identify the woman, but said she was Schrader's girlfriend. "It appears to have been a domestic problem. They told us a family member had secured a weapon and started shooting... without provocation," said Police Lt. Gary Miller. "We haven't determined if it was a random shooting or selected victims." About 12 family members had gathered at the one-story frame house to celebrate the 39th anniversary of William Schrader and his wife, Betty. They also were celebrating the 14th birthday of Thomas Schrader's daughter, Amy, authorities said. "We had had dinner and birthday cake and I was clearing off the table when I heard what sounded like firecrackers," Betty Schrader told the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record newspaper. Miller said authorities believe a woman wrestled with the gunman, enabling others to escape.

Peruvians deny anti-coca butterfly story

LIMA (R) — A government spokesman has denied a published report that swarms of tiny white butterflies have destroyed over 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares) of illegally grown coca plants in Peru. "We have no reports that ecological conditions in the zones where they (butterflies) presence is recorded led to the destruction of thousands of hectares of coca," a spokesman for the Agriculture Ministry said. He added that he had no information "about a possible government plan to breed these insects to destroy coca plantations." The New Scientist magazine, published in London on Thursday, said the butterflies, known locally as Malumha, had caused more than \$37 million in losses to Peruvian drug barons by devouring the raw material used to produce cocaine. The magazine added that Peruvian government intended to use the butterflies to chew up the estimated 321,000 acres (130,000 hectares) of coca cultivated in the Peruvian jungle. The government spokesman said the Malumha butterfly was first detected more than 50 years ago in Peru's mountain areas where it is known to feed on coca leaves.

More no-smoking space on Swiss trains

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — The Swiss Federal Railways are reducing space allotted to smokers to 20-25 per cent in new and remodelled passenger coaches starting this year. The programme follows a public opinion survey indicating that 73 per cent of all passengers prefer the no-smoking section, railways spokesman Urs Haller said. In the past, about a third of the seats in each coach were reserved for smokers, he said. "We repeatedly get complaints from nonsmokers. The no-smoking compartment is always the fuller one," Haller said. A plan to reserve entire coaches on commuter trains for nonsmokers is also being studied, he said.